

## □ Garamendi launches education coalition

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Lt. Gov. John Garamendi will join state education leaders Thursday to kick off a public awareness campaign about the effects of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed education cuts.

A press conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. at Sacramento City College.

Calling it a "grand education coalition," Garamendi will join representatives from over a dozen groups to highlight the impact of proposed cuts.

The coalition -- which includes the California Teachers Association, University of California, California State University, Community College League of California, and California School Employees Association -- will send the governor and legislative leaders a letter stressing the impact of a \$4.8 billion cut to K-12 and community colleges, along with \$644.8 million from UC and CSU campuses.

"These cuts will slash \$800 per K-12 student, shift a great portion of the state's obligation to fund higher education to students and families, and could mean the doors of our colleges are closed to tens of thousands of students who have earned the right to higher education," the open letter stated.

Garamendi said he supported a combination of revenue increases and efficiencies.

"I think the answer lies with Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson. Both, when faced with a similar situation, recognized a need for a balanced approach with these crises," he said.